

## CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

5           1.     An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

              a processor coupled to a bus;

              a memory device coupled to said bus;

10           a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

              one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic

15           system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and

              an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein said electronic

20           display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system.

2. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

3. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

4. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

5. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

6. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein one of said first, said second, and said third display modes is a default display mode.

7. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

8. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said communication  
5 port is an infrared communication port.

9. An electronic system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

10. An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode  
15 depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation  
20 corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode, wherein said electronic display device displays visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system; and

a memory device coupled to said bus and having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5                   a)     displaying a display re-orientation selector for enabling said user to select one of said first, said second, and said third display modes;
- b)     receiving a display mode selection from said user; and
- c)     adjusting a particular display orientation of said electronic display device based on said display mode selection.

10                   11.    An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said  
15                   second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

20                   12.    An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said method further comprises communicating with said second electronic system via said communication port..

13. An electronic system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

14. An electronic system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

15. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

16. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein one of said plurality of display modes is a default display mode.

17. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

18. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical button displayed on said electronic display device.

19. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical menu element displayed on said electronic display device.

20. An electronic system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

5 21. A portable electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a plurality of display modes, said portable electronic system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory device coupled to said bus;

10 a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode corresponds to a display orientation of a plurality of display orientations; and  
an electronic display device coupled to said bus for displaying visual data according to a selected display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said portable electronic system, wherein each display mode depends on a position  
15 of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port.

20 22. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said portable electronic system in one of said plurality of display modes.

23. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

24. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said memory device includes computer-executable instructions for performing a method of selectively operating said portable electronic system in one of said plurality of display modes, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) displaying a display re-orientation selector for enabling a user to select one of said plurality of display modes;
- b) receiving a display mode selection from said user; and
- c) adjusting a particular display orientation of said electronic display device based on said display mode selection.

25. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said method further comprises:

transmitting via said communication port display mode configuration instructions to said second electronic system; and

automatically configuring said second electronic system based on said display mode configuration instructions.

26. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said method further comprises communicating with said second electronic system via said communication port.

27. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical button displayed on said electronic display device.

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28. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said display re-orientation selector is a graphical menu element displayed on said electronic display device.

29. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said communication port is an infrared communication port.

30. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising a handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to a selected display mode of said portable electronic system.

31. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein one of said plurality of display modes is a default display mode, wherein a default display orientation corresponds to said default display mode.



32. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 31 wherein one of said plurality of display orientations is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said default display orientation.

5 33. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 31 wherein one of said plurality of display orientations is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said default display orientation.

10 34. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a first orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a second display orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in a third display orientation of said plurality of display orientations when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

15 35. A portable electronic system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said portable electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

20 36. An electronic system capable of being rotated with respect to a line of sight of a user and further having a first display mode, a second display mode, and a third display mode, said electronic system comprising:

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a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory device coupled to said bus;

one or more display mode controls for selectively operating said electronic system in one of said first, said second, and said third display modes, wherein a first display orientation corresponds to said first display mode, a second display orientation corresponds to said second display mode, and a third display orientation corresponds to said third display mode; and

an electronic display device coupled to said bus, wherein said electronic display device is configured for displaying visual data in a display orientation corresponding to a selected display mode of said electronic system.

37. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 further comprising a communication port coupled to said bus, wherein each display mode depends on a position of said communication port relative to said line of sight of said user, wherein said position facilitates communication with a second electronic system via said communication port;

38. An electronic system as recited in Claim 37 wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said first display orientation when said second electronic system is located in front of said user, wherein said electronic display device displays said visual data in said second display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the right of said user, wherein said electronic

display device displays said visual data in said third display orientation when said second electronic system is located to the left of said user.

39. An electronic system as recited in Claim 37 wherein said communication  
5 port is an infrared communication port.

40. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said second display orientation is offset positive 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

008750-051300 10 41. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said third display orientation is offset negative 90 degrees relative to said first display orientation.

42. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 further comprising a  
handwriting recognition device, wherein said handwriting recognition device is  
15 configured to receive user input handwriting stroke data oriented according to said selected display mode of said electronic system.

43. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein one of said first, said second, and said third display modes is a default display mode.

20 44. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons.

45. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said one or more display mode controls are one or more buttons displayed on said electronic display device.

5 46. An electronic system as recited in Claim 36 wherein said electronic system is a palmtop computer system.

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